

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 59, lines 1-11 with the following amended paragraph. The changes are shown with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Cell Culture. All cells were cultured at 37°C in a 5% CO₂ humidifier incubator maintained in RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat inactivated fetal calf serum (FCS), 1.5 mM L-glutamine, 50 µg/ml), CpG or non-CpG phosphodiester ODN (O-ODN) (20 µM), phosphorothioate ODN (S-ODN) (0.5 µM), or *E. coli* or calf thymus DNA (50 µg/ml) at 37°C for 24 hr. (for IL-6 production) or 5 days (for IgM production). Concentrations of stimulants were chosen based on preliminary studies with titrations. In some cases, cells were treated with CpG O-ODN along with various concentrations (1-10 µg/ml) of neutralizing rat IgG1 antibody against murine IL-6 (hybridoma MP5-20F3) or control rat IgG1 mAB to *E. Coli* β -galactosidase (hybridoma GL 113; ATCC, 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas VA 20110-2209 ~~Rockville, MD~~) (20) for 5 days. At the end of incubation, culture supernatant fractions were analyzed by ELISA as below.